"[FOUR STARS] ★ ★ ★ ★ With wit and originality... Shiner has succeeded in a feat most writers find impossible, presenting a convincing, sympathetic, and lively picture of a genius. The suspense isn't bad either."

—AMAZING HEROES

The Hacker Files
OKAY, I DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO GIVE ME A MEDAL FOR WHAT I DID
BUT THIS, THIS... HUMILIATION... IT MAY BE MORE THAN I CAN STAND
LEWIS SHINER WRITER/CREATOR
TOM SUTTON PENCILS
BUCKINGHAM INKS
DIGITAL CHAMELEON COLORS
ROBERT GREENBERGER EDITOR
1

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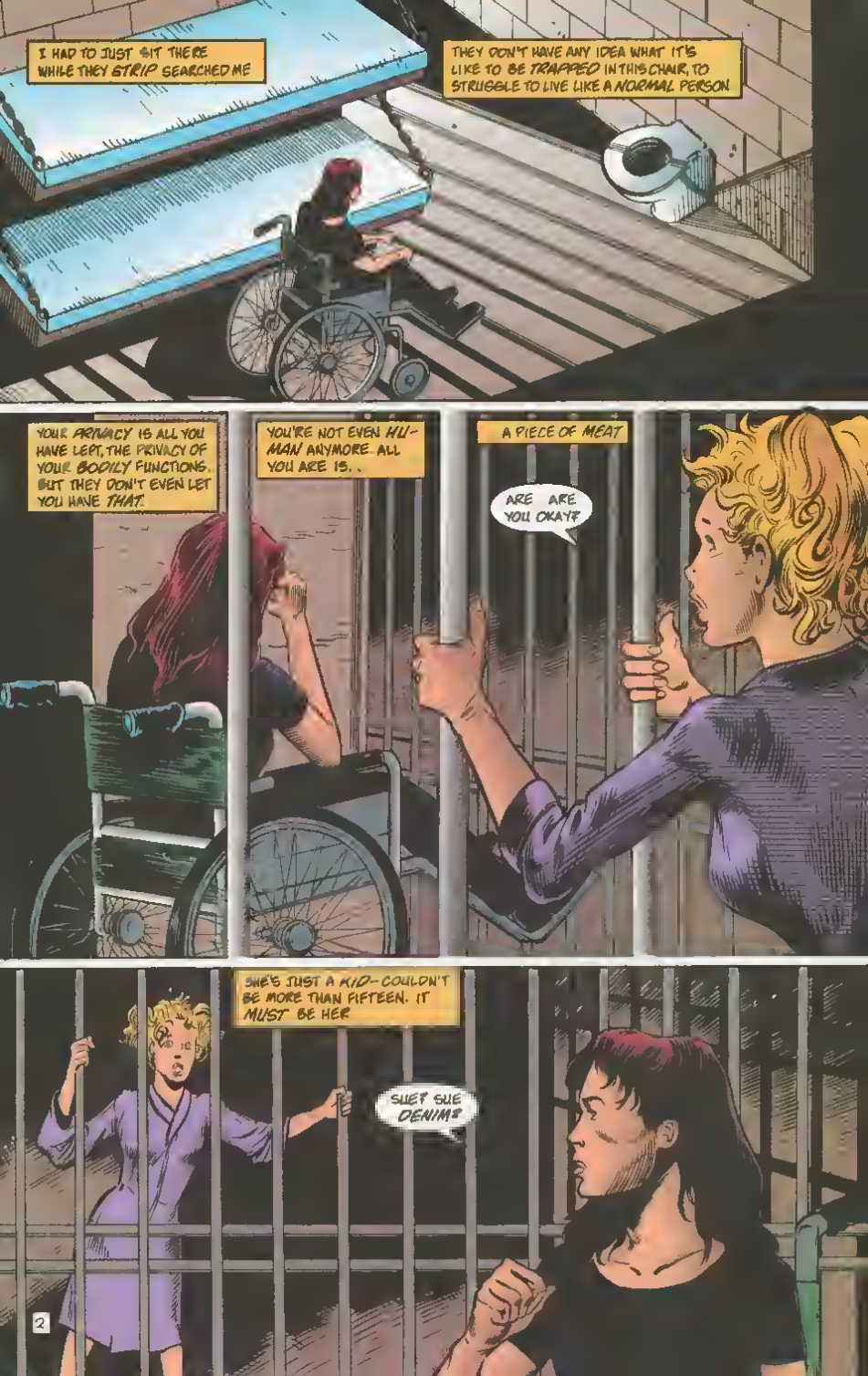
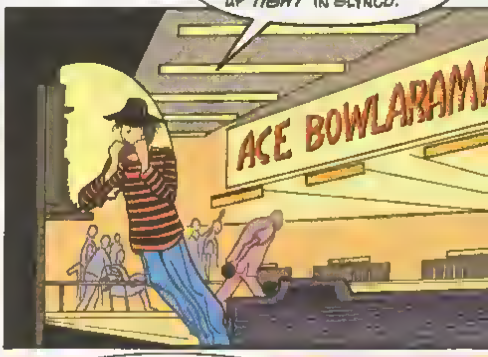

I HAD TO JUST SIT THERE WHILE THEY STRIP SEARCHED ME
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE TRAPPED IN THIS CHAIR, TO STRUGGLE TO LIVE LIKE A NORMAL PERSON
YOUR PRIVACY IS ALL YOU HAVE LEFT, THE PRIVACY OF YOUR BODILY FUNCTIONS. BUT THEY DON'T EVEN LET YOU HAVE THAT.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN HUMAN ANYMORE. ALL YOU ARE IS. .
A PIECE OF MEAT
ARE ARE YOU OKAY?
SHE'S JUST A KID- COULDN'T BE MORE THAN FIFTEEN. IT MUST BE HER
SUE? SUE DENIM?

YEAH! THAT'S MY HANDLE, ANYWAY HOW DID YOU KNOW?
JUST A LUCKY GUESS I'VE SEEN YOUR POSTS, ON THE NETS
WOW, SO YOU'RE LIKE A HACKER, TOO COOL YOU MUST BE HOT STUFF IF THEY CAME AFTER YOU SO HOW COME I DON'T KNOW YOU?
UNLESS...
UNLESS YOU'RE, LIKE... ORACLE OR SOMETHING
NO, NO. MY NAME IS AMY AMY BEDDOES
SHE KNOWS
AMY BEDDOES WAS THE NAME I USED WITH THE SUICIDE SQUAD IT JUST POPPED INTO MY HEAD I HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL
I JUST... LOOK AROUND, MOSTLY I DON'T POST MUCH.
YEAH? THEN WHY'D THEY PUT YOU IN HERE?
5

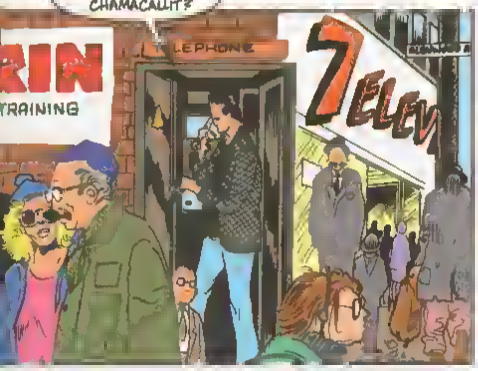
I I SHOT A COP
HOLY.
THEY BROKE IN WHILE I WAS ASLEEP NEVER SAID A WORD JUST SHOVED A GUN INTO MY FACE.
THEY DID THE SAME THING TO US COPS EVERYWHERE. HOLDING GUNS ON MY PARENTS AND MY LITTLE SISTER. IT WAS LIKE BAD TV
AT LEAST I DIDN'T KILL HIM THEY SAY HE'S GOING TO BE OKAY...
I WISH I'D NEVER BOUGHT THAT GUN BUT SOMETIMES YOU JUST FEEL SO...

YEAH SHE'S GOT TO BE FEELING THAT WAY, *PENNED UP* GOD KNOWS WHERE...

NOT *JUST* GOD. I KNOW WHERE SHE IS TOO THAT'S THE *BAD* NEWS. THEY'VE GOT HER AND HER GEAR LOCKED UP *TIGHT* IN GLYNCO.



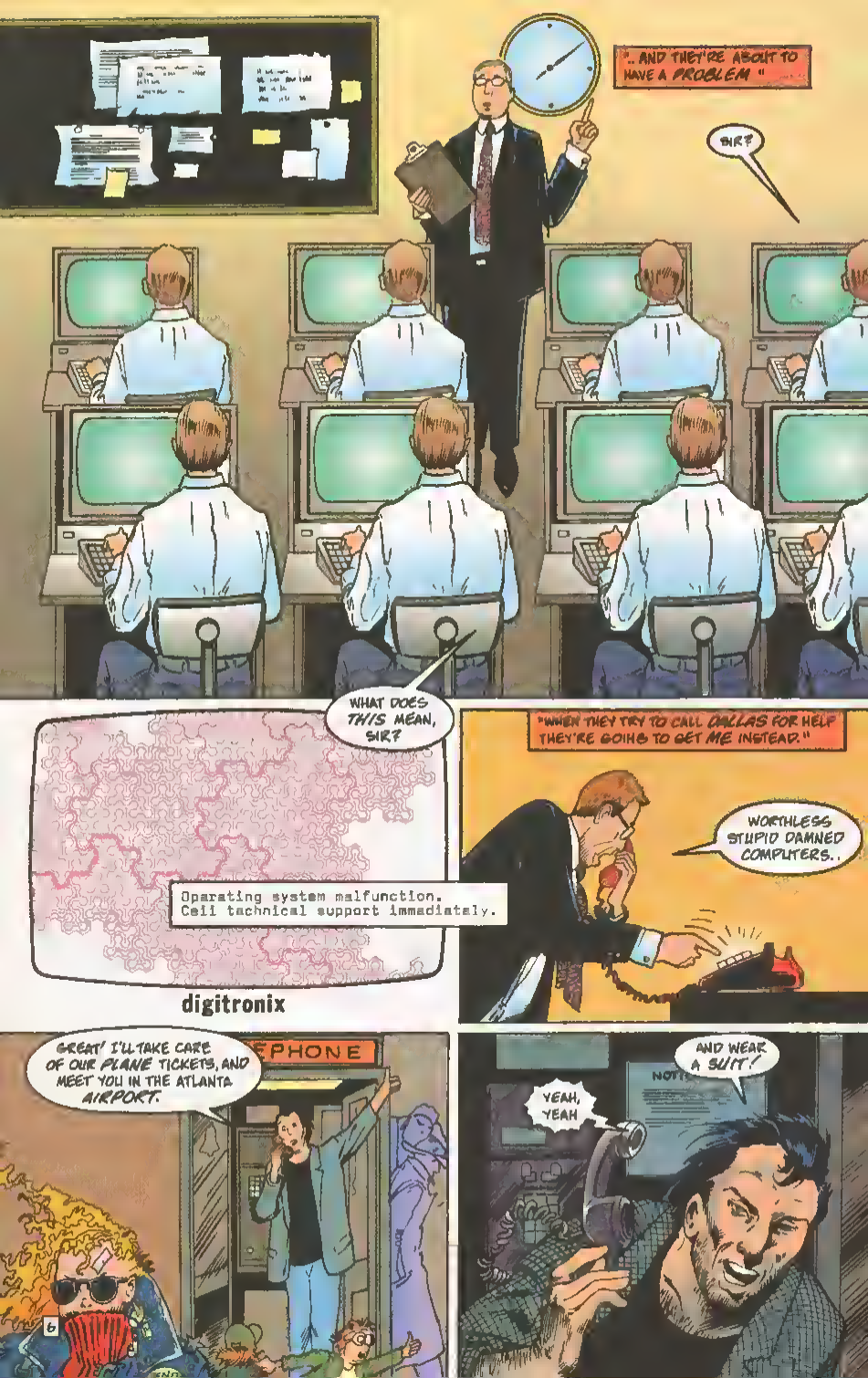
THIS IS THAT *FEDERAL* WHAT CHAMACALLIT?

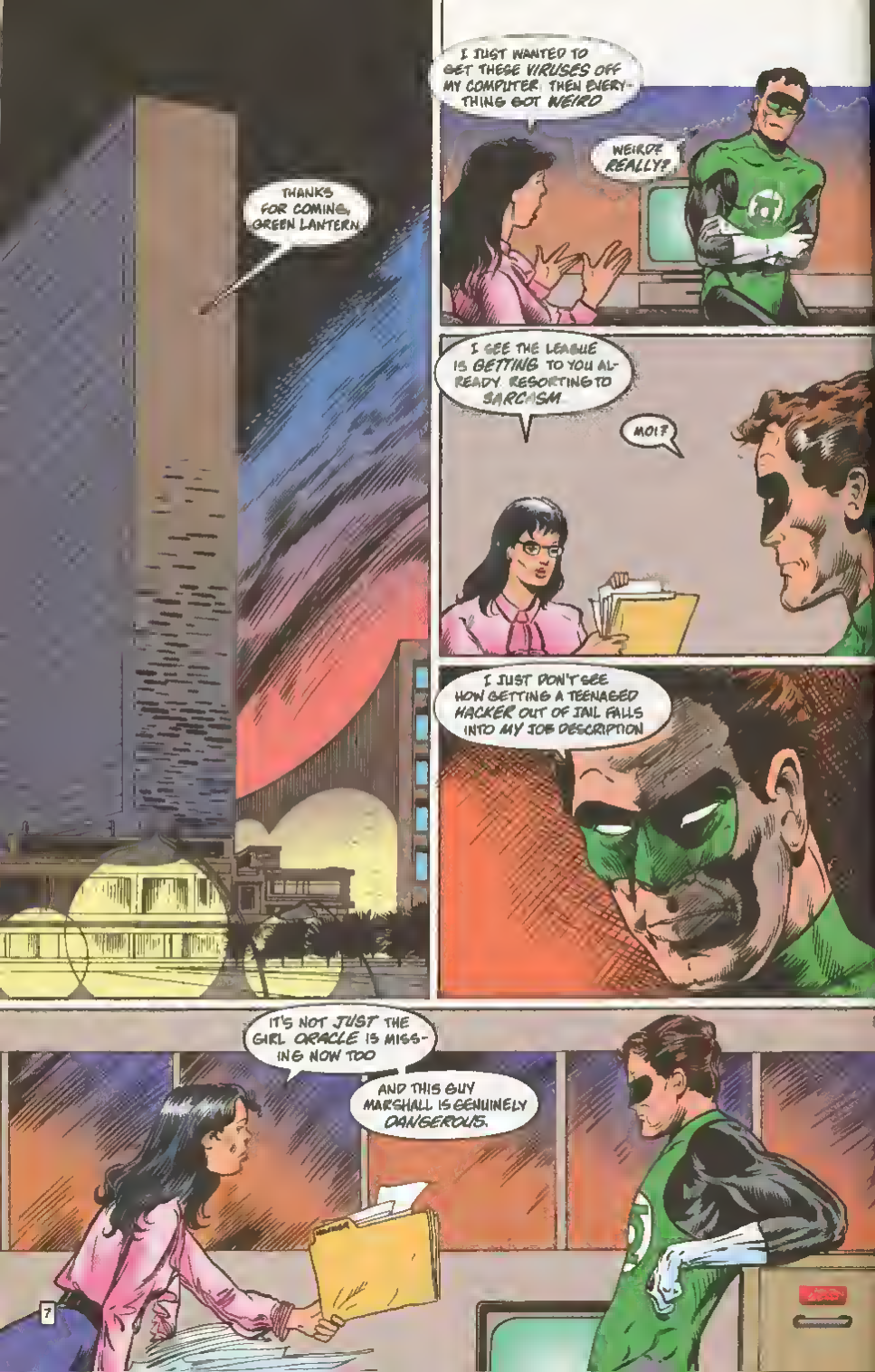


LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER, YEAH. COP *CENTRAL*, MAN

SO, DOES THIS IMPLY THERE'S SOME *GOOD* NEWS TO GO WITH IT?

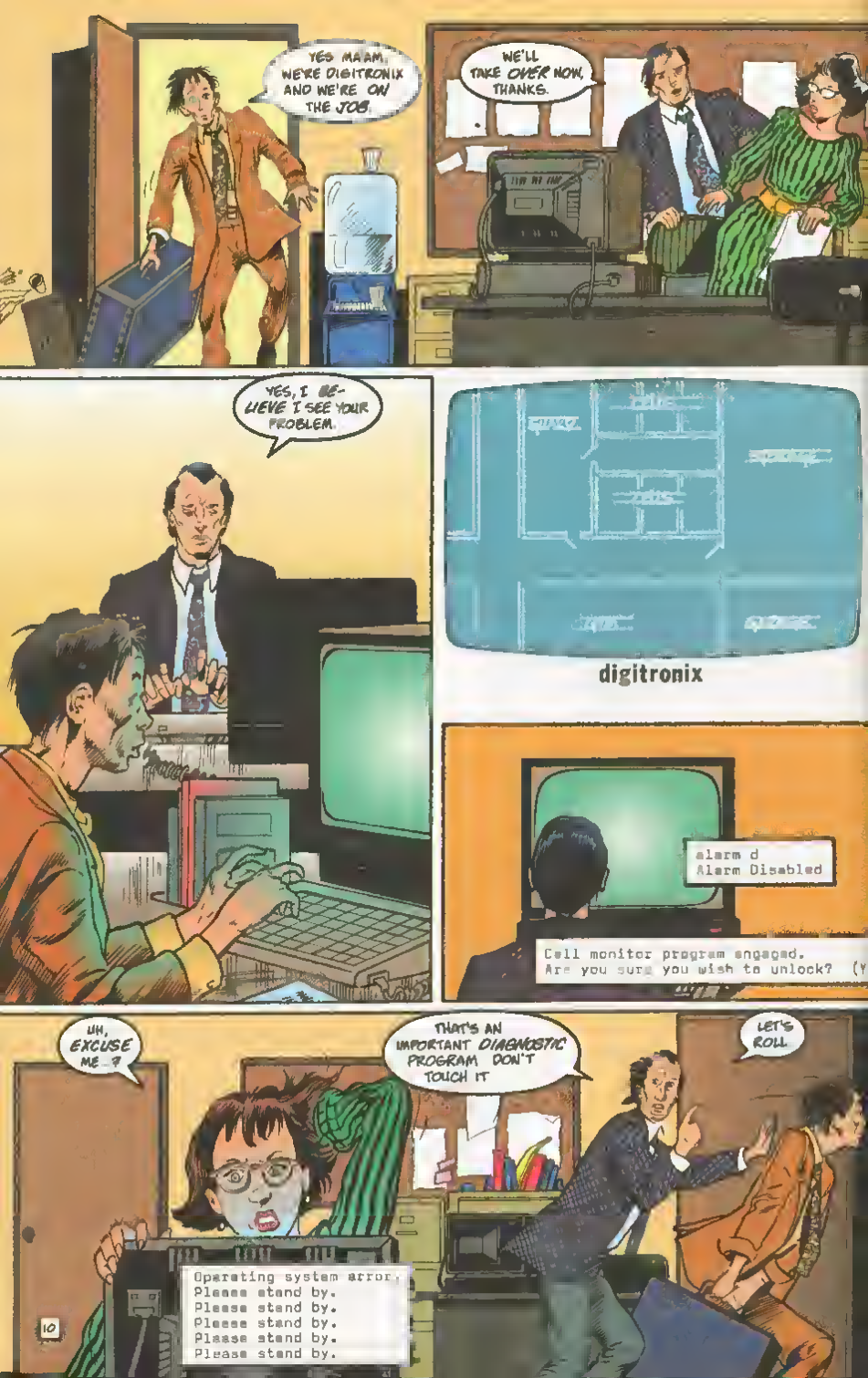
YEAH. THE GOOD NEWS IS THE WHOLE *COMPLEX* IS *COMPUTERIZED*. THE GEAR IS ALL DIGITRONIX...

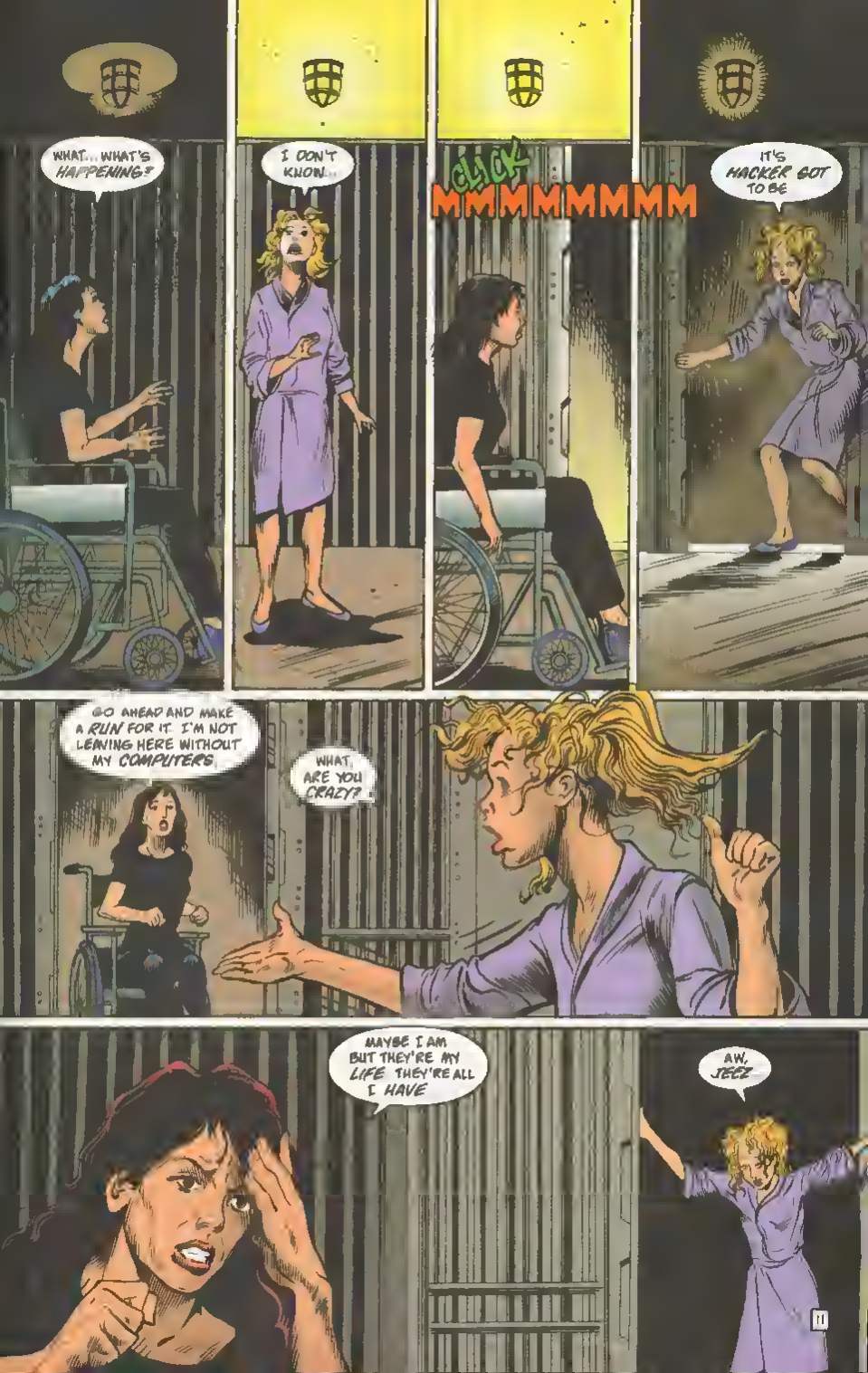

".. AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A PROBLEM "
SIR?
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, SIR?
Operating system malfunction.
Call technical support immediately.
digitronix
"WHEN THEY TRY TO CALL DALLAS FOR HELP THEY'RE GOING TO GET ME INSTEAD."
WORTHLESS STUPID DAMNED COMPUTERS..
GREAT! I'LL TAKE CARE OF OUR PLANE TICKETS, AND MEET YOU IN THE ATLANTA AIRPORT.
AND WEAR A SUIT!
YEAH, YEAH


THANKS FOR COMING, GREEN LANTERN.
I JUST WANTED TO GET THESE VIRUSES OFF MY COMPUTER. THEN EVERYTHING GOT WEIRD
WEIRDE REALLY?
I SEE THE LEAGUE IS GETTING TO YOU ALREADY. RESORTING TO SARCASM.
MOI?
I JUST DON'T SEE HOW GETTING A TEENAGED HACKER OUT OF JAIL FALLS INTO MY JOB DESCRIPTION
IT'S NOT JUST THE GIRL ORACLE IS MISSING NOW TOO
AND THIS GUY MARSHALL IS GENUINELY DANGEROUS.

HE'S GOING AFTER THE SECRET SERVICE, BUT THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT OTHER DAMAGE HE MIGHT DO IN THE PROCESS.
"DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY DIGITRONIX COMPUTERS THERE ARE OUT THERE? FROM WASHINGTON TO CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN?"
HACKER
FROM NASA TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE TO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?
THIS GUY MARSHALL IS ONE OF THOSE LIBERTARIAN ANARCHIST TYPES WHO THINKS THERE'S SOMETHING INTRINGICALLY WONDERFUL ABOUT CHAOS.
MY LIFE IS TOO CHAOTIC AS IT IS. I WILL NOT HAVE THIS MARSHALL CHARACTER MAKING IT WORSE.
9

THIS IS IT-- WILL YOU GET THE STUPID HAT OFF?
AUL
HEY!
DIGITRONIX
BEEN EXPECTING YOU. WHAT'S WITH THE TRUCK?
M-71D
IT'S, UH, ALL THE RENTAL COMPANY HAD.
HI.
HERE I AM, PUSHING FIFTY, MAKING CHUMP CHANGE. AND I SWEAR THAT ONE GUY LOOKED ABOUT TWELVE.
PITS, AIN'T IT?
U-HAUL

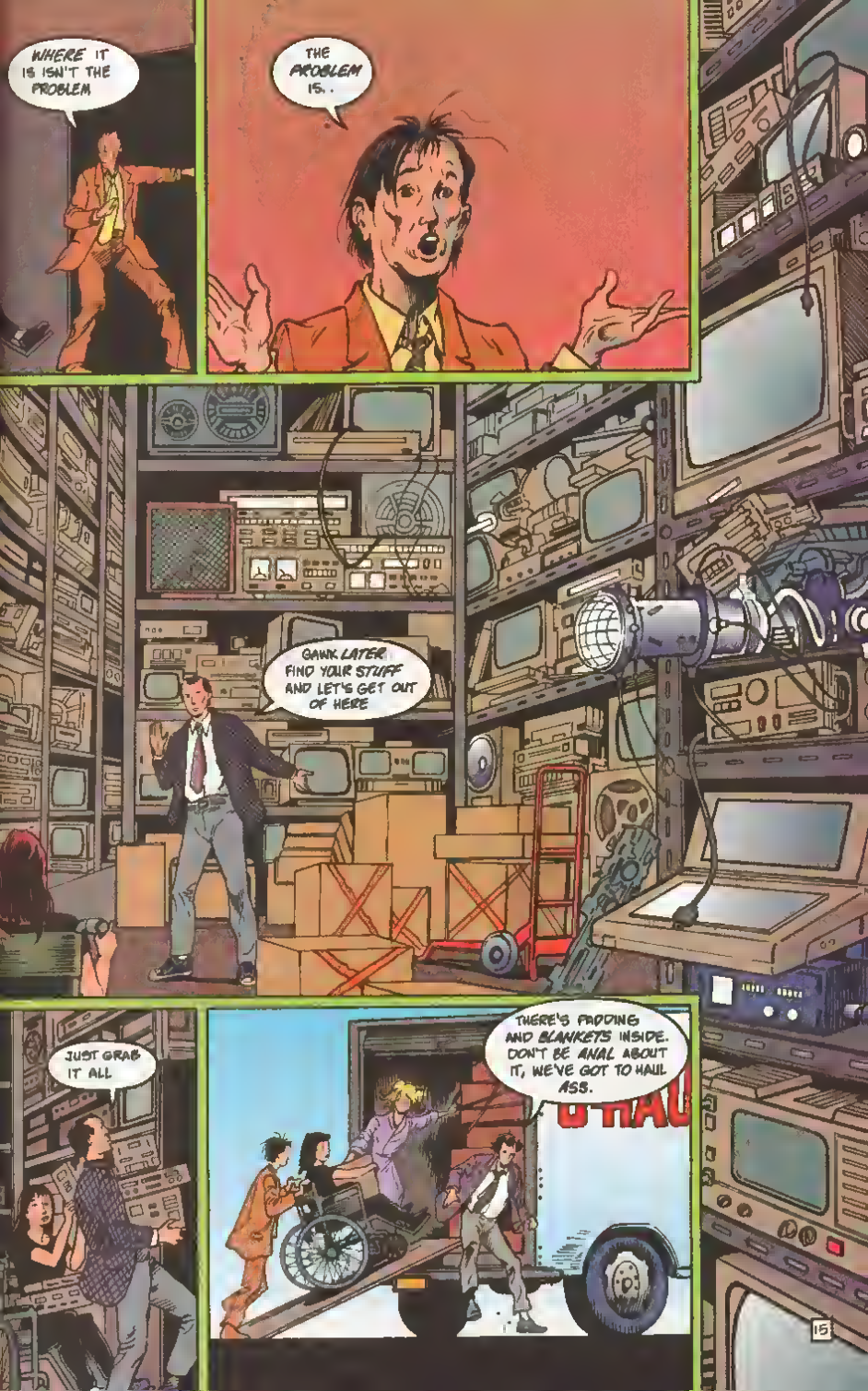

YES MAAM, WE'RE DIGITRONIX AND WE'RE ON THE JOB.
WE'LL TAKE OVER NOW, THANKS.
YES, I BELIEVE I SEE YOUR PROBLEM.
digitronix
alarm d
Alarm Disabled
Cell monitor program engaged.
Are you sure you wish to unlock? (Y
UH, EXCUSE ME...?
THAT'S AN IMPORTANT DIAGNOSTIC PROGRAM DON'T TOUCH IT
LET'S ROLL
Operating system error.
Please stand by.
Please stand by.
Please stand by.
Please stand by.
Please stand by.
10


WHAT... WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I DON'T KNOW...
CLICK
MMMMMMMM
IT'S HACKER GOT TO BE
GO AHEAD AND MAKE A RUN FOR IT. I'M NOT LEAVING HERE WITHOUT MY COMPUTERS.
WHAT, ARE YOU CRAZY?
MAYBE I AM. BUT THEY'RE MY LIFE. THEY'RE ALL I HAVE
AW, JEEZ

I GUESS I'M CRAZY TOO, THEN.
LET'S GO GET 'EM
UH OH
DUTY ROSTER
Krispy Kreme
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, LITTLE LADY
NO, WAIT, THERE'S, UH
FIRE!
FIRE
WHERE?
OVER THERE! BEHIND YOU!

HEY, WHAT—
FWOOSH
UMPHH FRUMPHH
HA HA HA HA HA
HURRY! HACKER'S GOT THE TRUCK WARMED UP!

WHAT ABOUT OUR STUFF? DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS?
WHICH OF THESE ARE YOURS?
MY BOO
THERE THE COMPUTERS AND THE STEREO.
HERE'S SOME TAPES AND CDs AND STUFF TOO.
HERE'S MINE.
I THINK.


WHERE IT IS ISN'T THE PROBLEM
THE PROBLEM IS..
GAWK LATER. FIND YOUR STUFF AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
JUST GRAB IT ALL
THERE'S PADDING AND BLANKETS INSIDE. DON'T BE ANAL ABOUT IT, WE'VE GOT TO HAUL ASS.
15

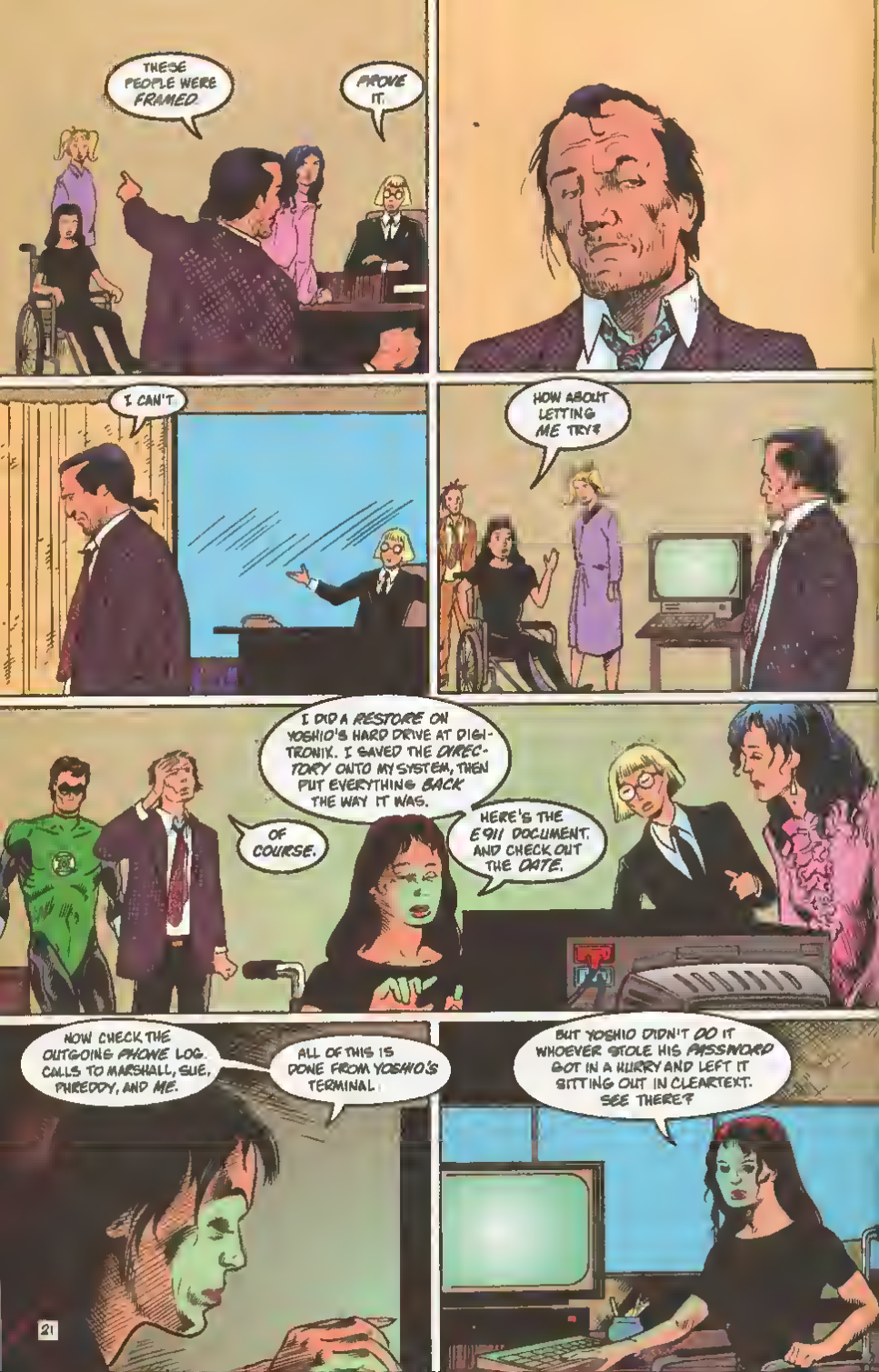
HURRY UP!
U-HAUL
ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY BACK HERE?
I'M FINE
AWRIGHT! WE ARE OUTTA HERE!
U-HAUL
TRY TO BE COOL AT LEAST UNTIL WE GET PAST THE GATE AND...
WHAT THE--
7A 3TH
SKREEEE

U-HAUL
HACKER, STOP!
U-HAUL

--NAME IS CATHERINE COBERT, HIS BEDDOES. I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF SOMEBODY KNOWN AS ORACLE
I'VE, UH, SEEN THE NAME.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET HOLD OF JANE CHANDLER, THE WOMAN IN CHARGE OF THIS WHOLE MOON WITCH BUSINESS
I'M SURE ONCE WE ALL SIT DOWN TOGETHER AND--
--TALK--
GRRRR..
UH OH

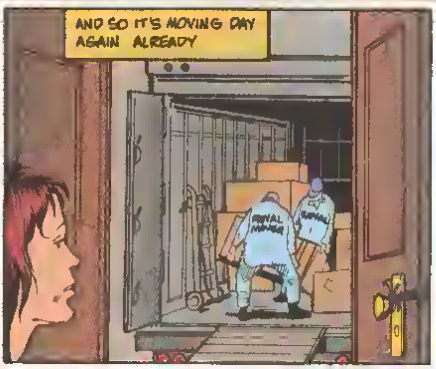
MOVE IT, BUDDY
I RECOGNIZE OUR TWO DETAINEES. WHO ARE THESE OTHERS?
I WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE THAT YOU CAN JUST DISMANTLE THE BILL OF--
I'LL HANDLE THIS, MR. MARSHALL
MR. CHANDLER
CATHERINE COBERT, JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL. YOU MAY RECOGNIZE GREEN LANTERN? I THINK YOU CAN CALL OFF YOUR DOGS NOW.
VERY WELL, GENTLEMEN. WE'LL MANAGE ON OUR OWN FOR NOW.
YOU ARE HOLDING UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND THEIR PRIVATE PROPERTY ILLEGALLY. YOUR METHODS ARE SUITABLE TO THE GESTAPO. I DEMAND--
THESE PEOPLE ARE CRIMINALS!

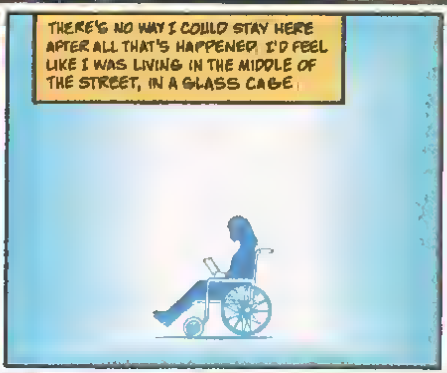
IS IT REALLY THAT EASY FOR YOU? CAN YOU ALWAYS TELL THE GOOD GUYS FROM THE BAD GUYS?
IT'S NOT THAT EASY FOR ME. I SEE INNOCENT PEOPLE FRAMED, I SEE OVEREAGER COPS ENTRAP THEM. IT HAPPENS EVERY DAY.
THERE'S SOMETHING CALLED DUE PROCESS. MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF IT. IT'S A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT IN THIS COUNTRY.
WHEN YOU ABUSE DUE PROCESS, YOU TELL PEOPLE THE SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK.
YOU LEAVE PEOPLE LIKE HIM NO CHOICE EXCEPT VIOLENCE
WHAT ABOUT THE WOMAN?
SHE SHOT A FEDERAL AGENT.
WHO BROKE INTO HER APARTMENT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WITHOUT IDENTIFYING HIMSELF.
MS CHANDLER

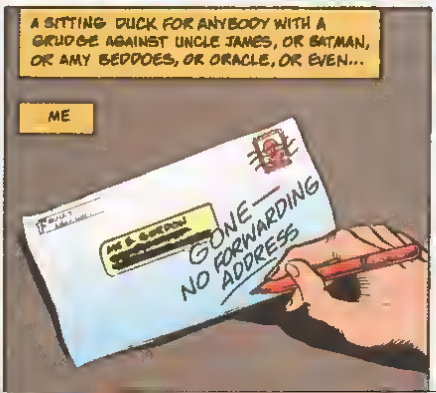

THESE PEOPLE WERE FRAMED.
PROVE IT.
I CAN'T
HOW ABOUT LETTING ME TRY?
I DID A RESTORE ON YOSHIO'S HARD DRIVE AT DIGI-TRONIX. I SAVED THE DIRECTORY ONTO MY SYSTEM, THEN PUT EVERYTHING BACK THE WAY IT WAS.
OF COURSE.
HERE'S THE E911 DOCUMENT. AND CHECK OUT THE DATE.
NOW CHECK THE OUTGOING PHONE LOG. CALLS TO MARSHALL, SUE, PHREDDY, AND ME.
ALL OF THIS IS DONE FROM YOSHIO'S TERMINAL.
BUT YOSHIO DIDN'T DO IT WHOEVER STOLE HIS PASSWORD GOT IN A HURRY AND LEFT IT SITTING OUT IN CLEARTEXT. SEE THERE?

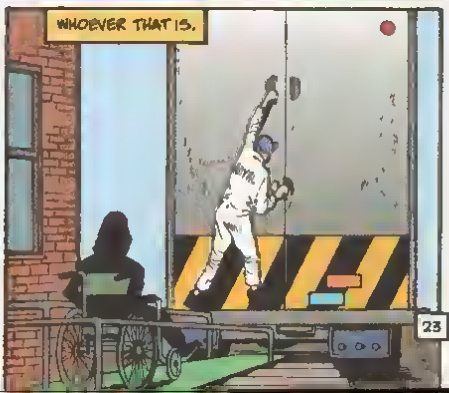
I'LL GO ALL THE WAY TO THE *PRESIDENT* ON THIS IF I HAVE TO.
THAT... WON'T BE NECESSARY.
THE OPERATION GOT OUT OF CONTROL. WE'D BE *LAUGHED* OUT OF COURT. YOU'RE FREE TO GO, ALL OF YOU.
WHAT ABOUT *DIGITRONIX*? DO THEY JUST WALK AWAY TOO?
THERE WILL BE A *FULL* INVESTIGATION
WHEN? NEXT YEAR? NEXT DECADE?
OKAY, MARSHALL... YOU'VE *MADE* YOUR POINT.

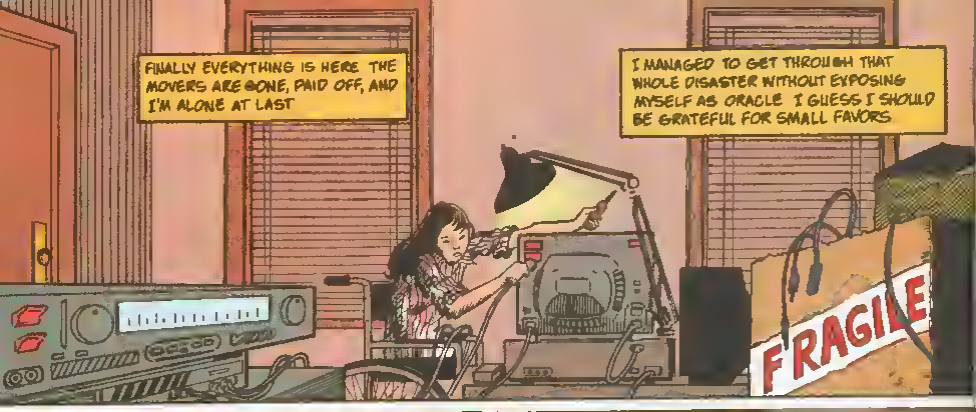
B GORDON
S FIORELA
CAREFUL WITH THAT PLEASE.
YEAH, YEAH.
FRAGILE
ROYAL

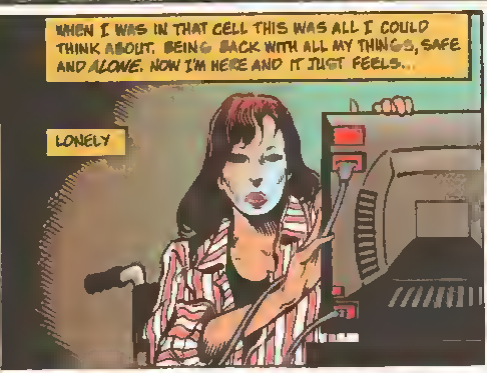

AND SO IT'S MOVING DAY AGAIN ALREADY


THERE'S NO WAY I COULD STAY HERE AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED. I'D FEEL LIKE I WAS LIVING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET, IN A GLASS CAGE.


A SITTING DUCK FOR ANYBODY WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST UNCLE JAMES, OR BATMAN, OR AMY BEDDOES, OR ORACLE, OR EVEN...
ME
GONE — NO FORWARDING ADDRESS

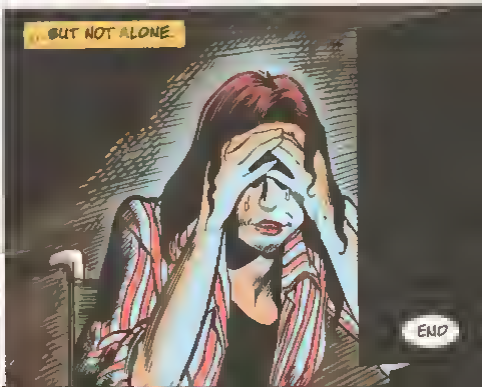

WHOEVER THAT IS.


FINALLY EVERYTHING IS HERE. THE MOVERS ARE GONE, PAID OFF, AND I'M ALONE AT LAST
I MANAGED TO GET THROUGH THAT WHOLE DISASTER WITHOUT EXPOSING MYSELF AS ORACLE. I GUESS I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR SMALL FAVORS.
FRAGILE


WHEN I WAS IN THAT CELL THIS WAS ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT. BEING BACK WITH ALL MY THINGS, SAFE AND ALONE. NOW I'M HERE AND IT JUST FEELS...
LONELY

digitronix

digitronix



Oh PhaRO
#OCD on irc newnet
http://ocd.conforums.com